The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 7. NO. 16. WASHINGTON. D. C. SATURDAY. JULY 14. 1917 WHOLE NO. 328.

## GOMPERS JUST MISSES "UNDESIRABLE" STAMP

New York, July 14.—At a public meeting in honor of the Russian war mission, President Gompers narrowly escaped being stamped an "undesirable citizen" by the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt.

In his address of welcome to the Russian envoys, Mr. Roosevelt voiced an unanimous opinion in condemnation of the East St. Louis anti-negro riots. He called on the government to put down violence with ruthless firmness." This sentiment brought forth that we are always expected from law-abiding citizens.

President Gompers followed. He, too, discussed the East St. Louis situation, which he traced to its source, the importation of cheap negro labor to compete with white labor. "The luring of these negroes to East St. Louis," he said, "was no more than a working of the same brutal, tyrannical force that existed in old Russia."

Mr. Roosevelt seemed to resent this indictment of labor conditions and just interrupted the next speaker to reply to President Gompers, whom he charged with "stirring up class strife." He said the colonel's statement was loudly applauded but if put to a vote, it would have been found decisively in favor of "you never did" came from sections of the house generally occupied by working men.

President Gompers prepared to fire another volley at Roosevelt, but before he could the chairman suggested that "it's a long way from Pet rograd to East St. Louis."

### NEGROES MUST ORGANIZE.

Cincinnati, July 14.—The leaders of the negro race, up to the present time, have accepted a situation which has retarded any solution of the negro problem, writes Editor Frey in the Molders' Journal.

Some years ago Booker T. Washington made the public statement that the trade and industries had discriminated against the negro and this made it impossible for him to organize effectively. Officers of the International Molders' union called Washington's attention to their efforts to organize the southern negroes and he was requested to make some statement appreciative of his policy.

The iron molders' request was not complied with.

"Since Mr. Washington's death," says Editor Frey, "no leading representative of the negro race has said or done anything, which has come to our attention, which would in any way encourage or induce the industry to join the trade union of his craft, and it was for this reason that the molders' delegates at the last convention of the A. F. of L. metal trades department introduced the resolution which instructed the officers of the department to correspond with the recognized leaders of the negro race and convey to them the desire of the American trade union movement to bring about a better understanding among the negroes, and to secure some definite statement from these leaders as to what could be done to accomplish this purpose upon the basis and the recommendations which they would make to the members of their race."

### REDUCE WOMEN'S WORK.

Madison, Wis., July 14.—The state industrial commission has prohibited night work for women in factories and laundries in Wisconsin. Night work is declared to be work performed between the hours of 6 P. m. and 6 a. m. Pen canning factories are excepted.

The commission's order is the result of hearings upon the petition of the Wisconsin state federation of labor and other bodies which urged the prohibition of all night work for women and a reduction of hours to 48 per week hours. The commission disposes only of that part of the petition which relates to night work. In many factories and laundries and given notice that it will make further investigation of other industries.

This order of the commission merely restores the conditions as to labor of 1913. In a decision in the last supreme court construed an ambiguous statute as making the 10 hour limit applies only when all of a woman's work is done at night time.

### STRIKE GUARDS OPPOSED.

Charleston, W. Va., July 14.—The West Virginia Federationist is voicing labor's opposition to the strike guard system in the following:

"Regardless of all the platitudes of the political powers," says the Federationist, "the anti-unionism and meretorious guard system still flourishes in the non-union coal fields and many industrial centers of the state. Intimidated and unhindered, carrying on its ruthless warfare against the working class in its fight for industrial freedom and justice. Acts of violence and lawlessness of the most brutal and cowardly occurrences and are equal in their brutality to those committed under the autocratic regime of feudal nations which resulted in a world war."

### SWEAT SHOPS CORNERED.

Trenton, N. J., July 14.—Anti-sweating legislation, passed by the last general assembly, took effect last week. No portion of a dwelling can hereafter be used for manufacturing purposes without a state license that must be renewed every six months. Each room must contain at least 250 cubic feet of air space for each person employed. Not less than 600 cubic feet for each person at night. Strict regulations as to sanitary conditions are also provided.

### 8 HOURS FOR MACHINISTS.

New Britain, Conn., July 14.—The New Britain Machine company has established the 8 and 10 hour day and installs the eight-hour system. This plant is rushed with government work and recently received a contract guaranteed against the billing pace. The company has had a night force over time for work over eight hours.

### CLERKS GAIN HOLIDAYS.

Boston, July 14.—Clerks employed by the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad have adjusted their half-holiday controversy with the corporation, and the following clerks will receive a full half-holiday every two weeks.

### LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN.

Belleville, Ill., July 14.—Organized laundry workers have raised wages 20 per cent after a long series of negotiations. The old contract will end May 30 and the new agreement later back to June 1.

## ABOLISH AGE LIMIT; SAVE WOMANHOOD

Cleveland, July 14.—The age limit of large corporations is a factor in "woman abandonment" and the high efficiency of many men over 45 is lost to the country, writes F. J. Bailey, in the Railroad Trainman.

"As long as the railroads and other business employers of labor retain the age limit rules that have relegated to the scrap heap hundreds of thousands of efficient employes who have reached a specified age," he says, "there can be no substantial ground for the assertion that we must draft the mothers of the country—present and prospective—into the occupations for which men are best fitted, to the everlasting deterioration of the country's standards of manhood.

"Scores of experienced, engineers and trainmen, physically fit for years of service at the profession to which they have given their lives, are thrown helpless on the scrap heap, sanitary inspectors, government watchmen, and in other occupations where their years of training and their expert knowledge is useless to them or to the country, because at some date in their lives they have come to a technical error, have aroused the antagonism of those in authority by the exercise of their rights as freeborn American citizens, or have left the service in some manner that does not square with the views of the officials and having passed the age of 45 either before or after the severance of their relations with the railroad, are permanently barred from following their profession.

"And still the public is informed that long trains must continue to run indefinitely and women must be employed in train service, 'because of the scarcity of labor.'

"It is about time that the ranks of the regiments of expert railroad men which are being recruited for immediate service in France and the filling places for many men who have been released from the service of the railroads of this country because of the infamous age limit. Men past 45 may be permitted the privilege of dying for their country while giving their expert knowledge to the service, but the management of the railroads will not stand the strain of permitting them to live for their country in the occupation for which they are best equipped."

### GRILLED; RAISES WAGES.

Washington, July 14.—After being raked fore and aft by a committee of the United States senate, which is investigating the strike against the Washington Railway and Electric company, President Kline has announced that wages of his non-union employes will be raised.

Officials of the Street Car Men's union were quick to see the handwriting on the wall and anticipate the report of the senate committee by granting voluntarily some of the increases which it is certain the committee will recommend.

Representatives of the District of Columbia federation of citizens' associations also appeared before the senate investigating committee and William Allen Clayton, representing the federation, said:

"I attribute the company's wage increases to the fact that organized labor, since it was through this agency that the real conditions under which the employes worked were revealed. The federation is pulling nobody's chestnuts out of the fire, but I think that if organized employes made the collective protest they have, the senate committee, in investigation, and the fact that only these employes included within the scope of the committee's report the increases, certainly makes it appear as a victory for organized labor."

### WORKERS VICTIMIZED.

New York, July 14.—President Maher of the Third Avenue Railway company has discharged four employes who testified before the legislature at Albany and other bodies which urged the prohibition of all night work for women and a reduction of hours to 48 per week hours. The commission disposes only of that part of the petition which relates to night work in manufacturing and laundries and gives notice that it will make further investigation of other industries.

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## WESTERN SOLDIERS WOULD AWE WORKERS

Salt Lake City, Utah, July 14.—Striking smeltermen at the International Smelting company's plant in Tooele said on strike Monday 20 of the soldiers formed in line near the depot and went through the manual of arms, including bayonet thrusts.

One of the strikers made a remark about being able to take a gun away from Captain Claude V. Biggs, in command of the troop. The captain ordered the worker arrested and marched his back and breast with the inscriptions, "I am sorry," and "It will never again insult a uniform," or similar words. Tin cans were tied to the workers' and soldiers, with fixed bayonets, marched him through the main streets, keeping the cans dangling with the points of their bayonets.

A. F. of L. Organizer Young made vigorous protest against the conduct, which is being investigated by his superior officers. State officials say no warrant will be issued pending the exercise of their rights as freeborn American citizens, or have left the service in some manner that does not square with the views of the officials and having passed the age of 45 either before or after the severance of their relations with the railroad, are permanently barred from following their profession.

"And still the public is informed that long trains must continue to run indefinitely and women must be employed in train service, 'because of the scarcity of labor.'

"It is about time that the ranks of the regiments of expert railroad men which are being recruited for immediate service in France and the filling places for many men who have been released from the service of the railroads of this country because of the infamous age limit. Men past 45 may be permitted the privilege of dying for their country while giving their expert knowledge to the service, but the management of the railroads will not stand the strain of permitting them to live for their country in the occupation for which they are best equipped."

### HOW TO MEET WAR COSTS.

Cleveland, July 14.—In a letter to members of the four railroad brotherhoods, signed by the presidents of these organizations, it is suggested that the train service men of this country give their national representatives to meet war costs by having the necessary tax placed upon the incomes of corporations which are making enormous profits because of the war.

"We do not believe in making any law confiscatory," it is stated, "but we are opposed to exempting the working men under the selective draft which conscripts his income as well as his life and limb from taxation, the same time increases the tax on the cost of the necessities of life and then, if he should live to return from his service in the field or navy, he and his children for the rest hundred years would bear the burden of the costs of the war.

"We feel we are quite within our rights when we say that the average fellow that finances the enterprises come under the authority of the government and do not, as he or she give our lives it seems reasonable that he be made to give his treasure. It is not meant that he be robbed any more than it is intended that every workman is taken to the battle line, but we expected that his profits will not continue to be an unnecessary burden on the back of the man who is doing the fighting."

### HOLDER APPOINTED.

Washington, July 14.—Arthur E. Holder, member of the International Association of Machinists, has been appointed by President Wilson the managing director of the two-year federal board for vocational education. The other appointees are Charles A. Prosser, Minneapolis, for a two-year term; James Phinney Munroe, business man, Newton, Mass., six years.

The labor representative has been a legislative committeeman of the American Federation of Labor for the past 8 years, and has been a factor in labor's efforts in securing remedial legislation for the capital during this time.

The vocational educational bill was signed by President Wilson last February. It provides federal co-operation with the states in establishing industrial schools for the teaching of trades, home economics, industries and agricultural subjects. Under the terms of the law the government will appropriate a total of $7,000,000, covering a period of years, to those states that accept the provisions of the act.

### ARMY COSTS COMPARED.

Washington, July 14.—In the Official Bulletin, issued by the government's committee on public information, is printed these comparisons figured from army costs this year and in 1915:

"In the year 1915, $450,000 was appropriated for aeronautics; under the urgent deficiency act, $47,000,000.

"In the year 1915, $10,000,000 for maintenance, $9,800,000; this year $122,000,000.

"In the year 1915, $10,000,000 for repairs and supplies; this year, almost $110,000,000.

"In 1915, $12,000,000 for transportation; this year, almost $222,000,000.

"In 1915, for clothing and camp garrison equipage, $6,500,000; this year, $231,500,000.

"In 1915, $300,000 for ordnance service; this year, $15,000,000.

"In 1915, $450,000 for manufacture of arms; this year, something over $65,000,000."

### GAINS BY TEAMSTERS.

Yonkers, N. Y., July 14.—Teamsters' union No. 206 has negotiated a union shop agreement with the Otis Elevator association. Wages are increased 10 per cent, overtime will be paid at the rate of 40 cents an hour, and the 8-hour day is agreed to.

Sioux City, Iowa, July 14.—The Teamsters' union in this city has been organized for over a year and has secured wage increases, that in no case is less than $2 a week per member.

### SULPHITE COST SKY HIGH.

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, July 14.—At an investigation into the cost of newspaper paper, the Canadian manufacturer testified that sulphite was sold in the United States last year for $45.23 a ton, although it cost but $35.56 a ton.

Other companies acknowledged that prices had been set without regard for costs.

### STREET CAR MEN WIN.

Waterbury, Conn., July 14.—The Street Car Men's union has won its demand that interurban employes shall not be compelled to take out extra runs after their day's work. The company has agreed to withdraw the compulsory order and that all such extra runs after their day's work shall not be compelled to take out extra runs after their day's work. The company has agreed to withdraw the compulsory order and that all such extra runs after their day's work and these runs will be treated as overtime.

### BOILER MAKERS WIN.

Superior, Wis., July 14.—Contract boiler shops have tired of their strikebreakers and agree to recognize shop committees of Boiler Makers' union No. 174. Strikebreakers are dismissed, increase is promised in the near future.

## WAGES NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGH COAL PRICES PROVEN IN FEDERAL SUIT AGAINST OPERATORS

New York, July 14.—In its suit against West Virginia coal operators the government smashed the pet theory of these employes that "high wages" is responsible for present coal prices.

After the government presented official documents which showed that the miners have received a total increase of but 13 cents a ton in the last three years, as against a price boost by the operators ranging from $1.75 to $2.25 a ton.

Of the 13-cent advance 3 cents were fought for and got at one time, 5 cents at another time, and another 5 cents was granted under the April, 1917, wage agreement.

## ECONOMIC FADDISTS JOLTED BY UNIONIST

San Francisco, July 14.—Wages of seamen depend largely upon organization rather than upon freight rates is the claim of Editor Scharrenberg of the Coast Seamen's Journal, who quotes economic theories by the application of cold facts.

"In 1906," he writes, "the year when San Francisco was devastated by earthquake and fire, wages of sailors in the Pacific coastwise trade were $45 per month. A request for an increase of $5 per month was met with a refusal. In 1907 wages were forced to the highest point in history. To secure this modest advance in wages the Pacific Coast Seamen's union of men (sailors, firemen and cooks) were compelled to call a strike which resulted in complete victory only after three months of actual experience had convinced the shipowners that scab labor was dear at any price.

"For 10 years the wages remained at $50 per month. Then came an increase of $5 per month and substantial improvements in living conditions were secured without a strike. This year, another $5 increase has been conceded, making the wages $60 per month.

"The point of this brief recital of facts is to be found in the mass psychology which impelled shipowners to fight, rather than pay a very modest increase in wages, when freights were at the top notch. Neither last year nor this year have coastwise freights been as high as they were during the memorable period of the war. Operating expenses of ships have mounted sky-high, many items on the ledger having almost doubled during the last year. Yet, no wages have been raised twice without industrial turmoil—yes, without the threat of a strike.

"In the face of these facts, who will maintain that wages depend upon freights?"

### MISTAKES INEVITABLE.

Fargo, N. D., July 14.—The Daily Courier-Forum, in an interview with Hoover, proposed food administrator, if given all the power suggested, "will be less it with perfect justice and wisdom?"

"No, probably not," replies the editor.

"Who would expect any man, given a practically dictatorship over the food supply, to make no mistakes, to do some injustice? There is no remedy for any evil seldom is found."

"But the American people are willing to take the risk of mistakes because they are beginning to learn something of the necessity of living them when unregulated by any authority but private monopoly.

"Whatever power the federal food administration will have it will have this great advantage, that it will be used by the people upon whom it will operate and not in the harsh exploitation and exercise of power by foreign rulers. Little by little, cannot be done in the first year, the people of this country for the city. We cannot expect to get them back unless we hold to the hope of becoming farm owners."

## INJUNCTION STOPPED WHEN STRIKE IS LOST

Springfield, Ill., July 14.—The Illinois state supreme court has reversed Judge Frederick Smith of the Cook county circuit court, who sentenced Jan Michalek, a striking malleable iron worker, to 30 days in jail and to pay a fine of $100 for violating an injunction. He was found guilty of causing the publication of a strike notice and call for a meeting of strikers in the Bricklayers' hall, Chicago.

While Michalek will not go to jail the fact remains that the strike was broken by the injunction and the supreme court has dodged the request of the Chicago federation of labor, Michalek's defender, that it pass upon the right of a free press. The court evades this request and makes no comment on the principle involved, although it does hold that Michalek did not violate the injunction and Judge Smith's action in sentencing him was "the liberty of the citizen cannot be taken away upon a pretext so slim as this."

The supreme court's decision is summed up in a statement by Frank Hayes, secretary of the Illinois state federation of labor:

"In dismissing upon my injunction, Judge Smith did not rightly construe the meaning of the law. Manifestly, therefore, the charge against the defendant was not well founded."

"While the case has been won, what redress is there for Jan Michalek? asks Gandier.

"What remedy is offered to the hundreds of malleable iron workers whose jobs were taken by the injunction? None! The equity processequity and good conscience! is the legal fiction used to describe the proceedings—has no remedy to offer them. The strikers had no property involved in the case. Only their personal rights—the sacred rights of a free citizen—have been interfered with. And the injunction judge deals with such rights only in the interest of property."

### DEFENDS WOMEN IN HOME.

Washington, July 14.—Man should pay less attention to woman's alleged food hoarding and more attention to the food manipulator, is the suggestion of Mrs. Henry A. Rogers, chairman of the National American Woman's Suffrage association's patriotic committee.

"It has become a popular thing," said Mrs. Rogers, "to scold women and hold them responsible for the apparent starvation unless they put their families on a bread and water diet. Such criticism is dastardly and is helping to stretch last year's income over this year's increased cost of living. The housekeeper, that hapless victim of masculine condemnation, has been charged from the kitchen to the cook stove and thrust into the limelight as a reckless spendthrift, owing to war conditions.

In place of a campaign to save waste, Mrs. Rogers suggests "a farreaching investigation into the ways of the food manipulator and a reorganization of food distribution methods."

### URGE TAX ON IDLE LAND.

New York, July 14.—Need of a federal taxation program, which would place land values within the reach of men of limited means who possess ambition and ability to cultivate it, is urged by Carl Vrooman, assistant secretary of agriculture, in an address at a conference on the high cost of living.

"Land values have risen at an unprecedented rate," he said. "They are based not upon what the farm will yield at present, but on the expectation of what it will be worth in the future. The farmer's son or the tenant farmer, with little capital, cannot hope to acquire possession of a farm when the price is so high. The result is that thousands of farms are idle all over the country for the city. We cannot expect to get them back unless we hold to the hope of becoming farm owners."

### R. R. MILEAGE INCREASE.

Washington, July 14.—Reports from railroads centering in the east of the country's mileage, shows that the railroad board's conservation campaign resulted in the transportation owed these lines of 2,354,000,000 more ton-miles during the month of June than they carried in the corresponding month of 1916. It is stated that this increase is equivalent to handling 2,000 miles to the nation's railroad facilities, and was made possible by pooling cars and agreeing to make every freight car do the work that two did before the war.

### LUDLOW RECALLED.

Denver, Col., July 14.—Major Hamrock has been appointed colonel of the First Colorado infantry. This official had charge of the state militia when the lives of women and children were destroyed in the Ludlow tent colony, in April, 1914, during the miners' strike.

Alexander Scottcutt, of Trinidad, another defender of the coal companies' interests, is also to be made a field pointed colonel of the Second Colorado infantry.

### PAPER WORKERS GAIN.

Marinette, Wis., July 14.—The Menominee Paper company has signed a three-year union shop agreement with the Paper Makers' union. Wages are increased 4 cents an hour and provision is made for yearly readjustments of the wage scale.

### NINE-JUROR LAW INVALID.

Little Rock, Ark., July 14.—The state supreme court has ruled that the nine-juror law, passed by the last legislature, is unconstitutional and that a juror of 12 persons is necessary to try a case.

### WAGE GAINS BY PLUMBERS.

Bridgeport, Conn., July 14.—Organized plumbers have secured wage raises from $4.50 to $5 a day, to date back from March 1.

## LEGAL AID SOCIETY LAUDS SEAMEN'S ACT

New York, July 14.—In the annual report of the Legal Aid society, of which Samuel Untermyer is president, it is declared that the theory and actual operation of the seamen's bill is bound in time to prove its soundness and efficiency."

The report is a complete vindication of labor's attitude on this question and exposes the claims of organized seamen—now in the law—that if the United States will no longer arrest seamen on their ships all American ports, but will permit them to leave their positions, as is the case with other workers, seamen's wages will be raised and working conditions improved, because ship owners will be compelled to meet the standards of American ports. Before the seamen's law was passed if a seaman on a foreign vessel quit his ship on arrival in an American port he was arrested and returned to the vessel.

"One need not be a mathematician or a student of economics to read this report, "to conclude that the enforcement of this legislation means the creation of opportunity for the American shipowner to compete with foreign vessels on a fair and equal basis. The cost is concerned, and, secondly, gives American an opportunity to build up a merchant marine for reasons and the fact that higher wages are paid on board all vessels, and rules for safety appliances, better and larger crew quarters and general conditions on board, are enforced on American vessels.

This complete republication of the high seamen's law is given added weight by the fact that included in the list of honorary members of the Legal Aid society are such names as Hon. Woodrow Wilson, W. H. Taft, Elihu Root, Theodore Roosevelt and Andrew Carnegie.

### NO LABOR SHORTAGE.

Sacramento, Cal., July 14.—Excepting in Imperial county, the state labor bureau of labor shortage in California, despite the fact that crops are being harvested in record time and the end is in sight of a report made to the state council of defense by the committee on resources and food supply.

The reason for farm labor shortage in Imperial county is stated, is that workers are unwilling to go into this extreme southern section of the state because of poor housing conditions and excessive heat.

The report is based upon information obtained by the committee from the University of California farm advisors, who have conducted the investigation.

San Francisco, July 14.—The "farm labor famine," predicted some time ago by Governor Stephens, says the San Francisco Bulletin.

"Only one county in the state, which is the largest in area and, therefore, does not tempt the migrant laborer, reports an acute shortage. Imperial county, in the southeastern corner of the state, is the only county where at home as our armies will fight for democracy abroad.

"In the midst of our military enterprise we must be actually loyal to our own institutions, here," he said. "We must not allow the hours and conditions of people who have given their blood to democracy to be filled with ships bringing back our soldiers. And when these heroes step ashore they tell us that they have won for democracy in Europe, we must be able to tell them in return that we have won the faith of democracy at home and won battles here for the cause while they were fighting there."

### HOW ABOUT THE EMPLOYES?

Washington, July 14.—Official figures of railway company announce that out of nearly 18,000,000 passengers handled by this corporation during the 24 hours preceding, 1 was killed and 1 killed. The management states that it "takes the utmost satisfaction in this achievement."

No mention is made of the poorly-paid section worker who contracted consumption in all kinds of weather, the train service employes who lost their lives in the cabs of wrecked engines, the home of the railroad employes who suffer from occupational diseases.

### LABOR LAWS IN EFFECT.

Nashville, Tenn., July 14.—These new laws, passed at the last session of the legislature, became effective the first of the month:

Requiring owners of foundries to provide shower baths, regulate sale of patent medicines, regulate employment agencies, compel semi-monthly pay days, fixing hours of labor for minors under 16, regulating contracts between employer and employe.

### TILE LAYERS ADVANCE.

Dayton, Ohio, July 14.—Tile layers and helpers' union No. 19 has completed one of the most successful organizations in the history of the city. The union has labored nine and 10 hours a day for $2 and $2.25. They have just secured a new scale of wages, which makes their rate $5 cents an hour, with an eight-hour day.

### WOMEN WANT MORE.

Philadelphia, July 14.—Organized women bindery workers have asked employers to raise wages beginning August 1. They are receiving $8 for a 48-hour week, time and one-half for over time and double time for Sundays and holidays.

### ENGINEERS REDUCE HOURS.

Dayton, Ohio, July 14.—Stationary engineers employed at ice plants in this city have secured the eight-hour day and raised wages 2 a week. The former work day was 10 and 12 hours.

### RUBBER WORKERS WIN.

East Palestine, Ohio, July 14.—Employes of the McGraw Tire and Rubber company, the National Tire and Rubber company have won their seven weeks' strike for higher wages and better working conditions.

### ALABAMA MINERS UNITE.

Birmingham, Ala., July 14.—During the past month the United Mine Workers of America have had 1,000 new men in the state with a total membership of 17,000.

## "ANTI-IDLENESS" LAW USED AGAINST UNIONS

Charleston, W. Va., July 14.—The state legislature, at its last session, passed an act to prohibit vagrancy under the pretext of aiding the war by putting professional vagrants to work. Under the act it is unlawful for any citizen of this state between the ages of 18 and 45 to fail to work a certain number of hours.

And now the inevitable has happened. The law is being used to break strikes.

Because miners employed by the Monte Coal company at Otlawa were not permitted to present grievances to the management, they suspended work, and the company seized upon the vagrancy law to drive them back to their employment. Two miners and their sons were arrested and the company employed an attorney to assist the county prosecutor.

At the trial it was shown that one of the miners had several months employment elsewhere, and was arrested while on his way to work. The jury could not agree in this case and the trial was transferred to Madison at the request of the company, which claimed an impartial jury could not be secured at Clothier.

The miners are lobbied for an antistrike law at the last session of the legislature, but were defeated by organized labor. The vagrancy act was used for the same purpose, while the companies loudly proclaim that "we are in this war that democracy may survive."

### STATE URGES PERJURY.

San Francisco, July 14.—District Attorney Fickert, in charge of the prosecution of Thomas J. Mooney on perjured testimony, is now charged with conspiracy to suborn perjury on behalf of Mooney's wife by the same process.

Thomas S. Straub, attorney for the Pacific Gas and Electric company, made the positive declaration that he told Mrs. Belle Elizabeth Smyth, sister of Fickert, that the life of her sister, Mrs. Mooney, would be spared if she would swear to an untrue statement to change her statement as to the time she arrived on the roof of the Eilers building. The charges stand indicted.

Mrs. Hammerberg's testimony has been one of the strongest obstacles which the state has raised in the case against the defendants. She swore that she was with Mooney on on the roof of the Eilers building from 1:46 until 8 o'clock of the afternoon of the preparedness parade, just year, when the bomb was exploded.

A photograph in the possession of the prosecution, which at the Mooney trial showed Mooney and his wife on the roof of the Eilers building at 2:06 o'clock, the time being established by a clock in the picture. When the defense attempted to introduce the photograph in evidence it was objected to by the state and a resorted to extreme measures to offset this evidence.

### PRICES JUMP 250 PER CENT.

Chicago, July 14.—In its report to Judge Landis, the canning industry points out that canned tomatoes, in the spring of 1916, were sold through jobbers to retailers for $1.25 and canners and jobbers at 99 cents a dozen for gallons, the latter being quoted as being sold today by wholesalers and jobbers to retailers for $2.35 and more.

The canning industry in spite of our local unions have never organized industry exclusively, and never delegates attend conventions of central bodies, but I have not learned of a single instance where the central bodies, but a have not learned of a single instance where the central bodies associations as the Negro Equal Rights league have aided or encouraged negro labor organization, has also for purpose of selling in trade unions, to prevent exploitation, to secure recognition of labor unions and to obtain improvements in working conditions. Every effort has been made by the state federation of labor and its central bodies to organize the colored workers against the rank injustice of the charge alleged to have been made by the Chicago Defender, which charge as unqualifiedly false and untrue.

"(Signed) SAUNDERS,
"Secretary-Treasurer."

### BONUS IS FAR AWAY.

Denver, Col., July 14.—It is stated that 2,000 employes of the Santa Fe railroad in this city will receive a 10 per cent bonus—next December. Employes who do not have contracts made with the company for collective bargaining are not eligible to receive this.

This means that nonunionists, if they remain patient and long-suffering, will get December. Unionists will receive 10 per cent of their wages between April 1 and December from the kindly Santa Fe.

It must be remembered that if any of the employes of the Santa Fe railroad has contractural relations with the company, and thereby automatically comes under the Santa Fe bonus rule, they will forfeit all rights to this bonus.

### REFUSE INJUNCTION.

Ardmore, Okla., July 14.—District Judge Freeman has denied an application of the Pioneer Telephone company for an injunction restraining trade unionists, who are requesting employees to remove their telephones because of a strike of telephone girls who are demanding higher wages.

The action of the court in holding the girls and local sentiment is shown by the action of the mayor, who issued a proclamation declaring a half holiday on the afternoon of a street parade and demonstration in favor of the girls.

### TEACHERS LEAD.

Washington, July 14.—The Mexican Review, published in this city in the interest of the de facto government of the republic of Mexico, says that teachers are leading the struggle for the betterment of the Mexican people, and are greater in number than the entire military force in the field. The teachers' efforts are organized a co-operative society for supplying members with all kinds of food articles at prices far below those of the wholesale rates. They will also establish a large poultry farms, gardens and bakeries.

### FAVOR NON-UNIONISM.

Grand Rapids, Mich., July 14.—The builders and traders' exchange has issued a call for a meeting to be held by them in a campaign against trade unionism and the theory of collective bargaining whereby employers attempt to conceal their real purpose by the use of the misleading and hypocritical term, "the open shop."

### UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Boulder, Col., July 14.—Officers of the Colorado state federation of labor have issued a call for the fifteenth and annual convention to be held in this city beginning Monday, August 6.

### WIRE MEN STRIKE.

Dubuque, Iowa, July 14.—Electrical workers' union No. 734 has called a strike because contractors refused to grant an eight-hour day and time working conditions.

### MEAT CUTTERS ADVANCE.

Allentown, Pa., July 14.—The Meat Cutters' union has secured signed agreements with employers in this city covering working hours for one year.